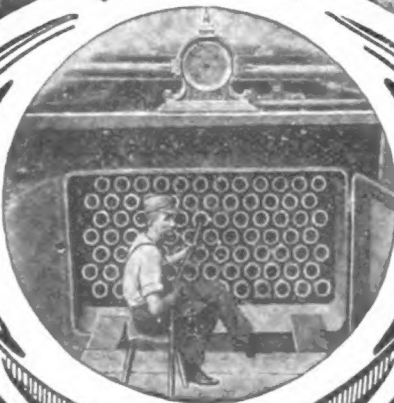
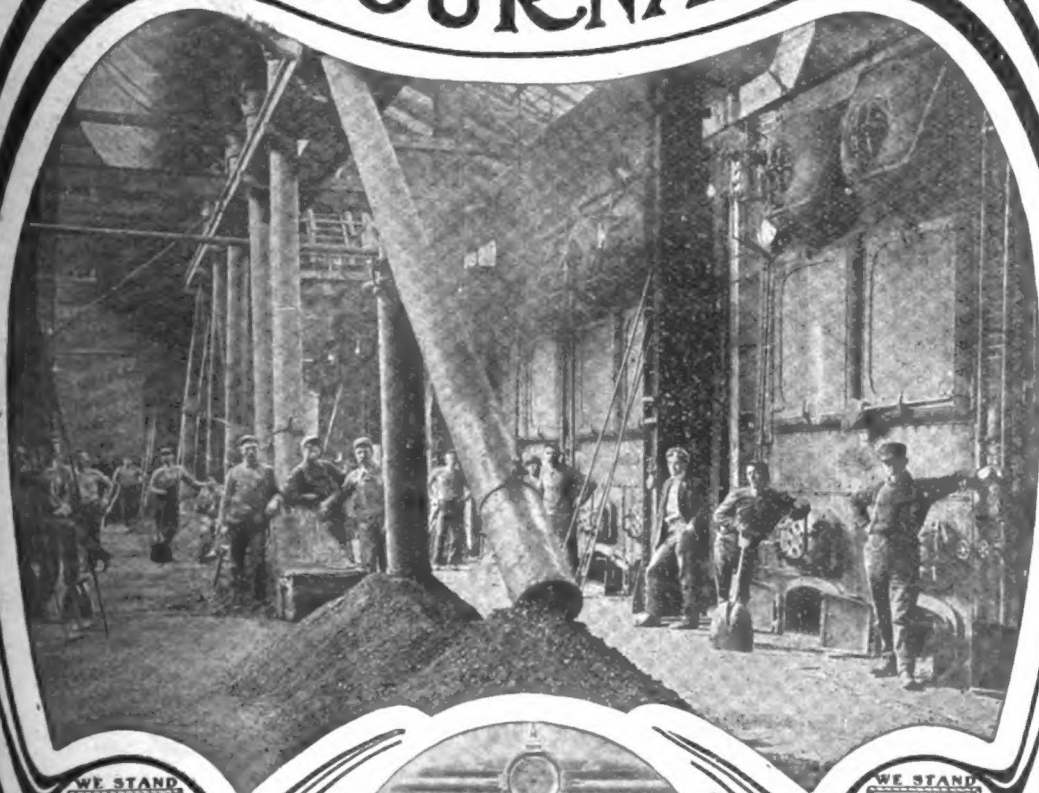


STATIONARY FIREMEN'S JOURNAL



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President Healy's Report.

New York, N. Y., April 2, 1912.
Mr. Editor:

The Textile Strike of Lawrence, Mass., which occurred some ten weeks ago and threw out of employment some 25,000 operators has attracted nation wide attention. The newspaper reports from the seat of war has not been exaggerated, and the true situation in Lawrence is fairly well known to the reading public throughout the United States. Therefore, it is not at all necessary for me to go into details of this matter. However, for the benefit of the readers of our Journal it may be well to say something concerning our own Local Union No. 18, of Lawrence as well as others of our Local Unions employed in the Textile and other industries.

I arrived in Lawrence on Feb. 26th, in company with 3d Vice-President Cunningham and on our arrival waited on President Cronin, and Secretary Haggerty of No. 18. It was decided to call a special meeting as the men were more or less excited. Though everybody was working none of the firemen had struck up to that time. After discussing the matters thoroughly at the meeting the men were unanimous in their opinion that future developments should be left in the hands of Brother Cunningham and myself. Cunningham had been in Lawrence previous to this time and had got the hours of the Gas and Electric light employees reduced from 12 to 10 with an eight hour work-

day to go into effect on July 1st without any reduction in pay. During our short stay in Lawrence, we visited a number of mills in company with Chairman Mienions of the C. L. U. Strike Committee and in every instance we were well received and got good encouragement nearly all of which have made good their promises. However, some five or six of the larger mills including the American Woolen Co., known as "The Woolen Trust" refused to recognize or grant any increase to the firemen. President Cronin informed me of this fact and asked for permission to strike which I granted at once and inside of one week, I had a wire from Secretary Haggerty informing me that his men had won out their demands of a 15 per cent increase in wages about one hundred men being affected. I might here state that the Massachusetts District Police who insisted upon the enforcement of the Firemen's License Law, helped the men considerably in their fight. Here is one instance where a Firemen's License Law had a good effect.

Cotton Mill Locals.

When on the Lawrence trip, I stopped off at Fall River where Local No. 291, was agitating for an increase in pay in the Cotton mills. A special meeting was called and it was decided that the Local should demand an increase of about 15 per cent. On the following day in company with Brother Thomas Dow, Business Agent of Local No. 3, of Boston, whom I

telegraphed to meet me in Fall River as he had been in that city previously and Brother Bernard McCabe, of Local No. 291, we visited the independent mills known as "The Print Works" and "Iron Works Mills" which plants employ a large number of help. To get an idea of the size of those mills, one of them has a battery of 66 boilers. When we put up our proposition to the management of those mills they gave us the usual arguments and told us that they were paying bigger wages than what was paid to the firemen in the mills of the Manufacturers Association. That we knew to be true, but still insisted that the pay would have to be increased. They requested one weeks time to lay our proposition before their Board of Directors when they would give us an answer. I having to leave town requested President Sullivan of the Fall River C. L. U. to take hold of the matter with Brother Dow and the officers of No. 291, and I am glad to be in a position to report that those gentlemen succeeded in getting an increase of 12½ per cent from the mills above referred to. They also went after the mills in the Manufacturers Association combine, who so far have ignored their demands. On March 25th, the Local voted to strike as soon as they got permission of our International, and while in Washington, D. C. two days ago, I received the following telegram:

Timothy Healy,

National Hotel, Washington, D. C.

Local 291, voted to strike awaiting permission from you. Your wanted here as soon as possible.

Martin Tansey, Secretary.

I immediately communicated with Brother Tansey giving the Local permission to strike against the mills of the Manufacturers Association. However, I requested the Local to defer action for a few days to enable me to get in touch with the companies involved, with the purpose of gaining our point without a strike if possible, as I fear the after effects in that city even should the men win out.

Local No. 294, are having their troubles also. They are out for better conditions and have a rival local of the I. W. W. to contend with. I wrote Brother Dow

several days ago for either himself or Brother Cunningham to go to New Bedford at once if it was at all possible to do so. We were very fortunate in having Brother Cunningham appointed Organizer by the A. F. of L. He has been in the field for the past ten months and has made good. Though he cannot devote all his time to our Brotherhood he is doing the best he can and has bettered the conditions of our men in every section of the State where he has been. Brother Thos. Dow, who is Business Agent of No. 3, is another good worker. He is also Secretary-Treasurer of the Massachusetts State District, having defeated Fred Brown, of Holyoke for that position. Brown was a dead one at best, having no interest in the State District except the few dollars that there was in it. I am informed that he has charged as high as \$25.00 to the District for two days work and was at the same time drawing salary as School Janitor from the City of Holyoke. Pretty good graft for a "Pin-head," but those paying the per capita tax got wise and made a change for the better.

Paper Mill Agreements.

I was invited to and attended a conference of the employees of the Great Northern Paper Co., which was held in Bangor, Me., Feb. 18th and 19th. The different trades go together and drafted joint agreement to be presented to the company, and on March 5th, the same representatives met the representatives of the company in Boston, Mass., and signed up a strictly union shop agreements covering a period of two years. The firemen has got an eight hour work-day, also a small increase in pay. For instance, the head firemen who received \$2.52 will under the new schedule receive \$2.56, and the regular firemen who receive \$2.24 will now receive \$2.28. The Oilers, Coal Wheelers and Ash Handlers who are the lowest paid help in the steam plants received an increase of from five to seven cents per day. Of course the principle point that we gained was the extra time for Sundays and holiday work and that should be an issue from now on in all

agreements entered into by our International with its employers.

On March 16th I received notice from the International Paper Company, that its Board of Directors had voted to increase the pay of its men one cent an hour commencing May 1st, that would give for an eight (8) hour work-day based on seven days a week time and a half for Sundays. Head firemen, \$18.60; first firemen, \$17.40; Regular firemen, \$15.60; Coal and Ash Handlers, \$13.80; Boiler Cleaners, \$17.94. Immediately after receiving this notice, the trades interested called a meeting to be held in Albany, N. Y., March 26th and 27th, inviting the management of the International Paper Company to be present. I too notified our Local Unions in the employ of the International Co., six of whom responded and others wrote asking that I should represent them. When the Conference met on date above mentioned, after a lengthy discussion it was decided to ask for a two cent an hour increase over the rate now paid. The other trades, Paper Makers, Pulp Sulphite Mill Workers and others asked for a union shop agreement such as that now held by the Firemen's Brotherhood. The management replied that they would present our request to the Board of Directors and would give us a reply in ten days.

Firemen in Federal Buildings.

While attending the meeting of the National Civic Federation held in Washington, D. C., March 5, 6, and 7, your representatives to that body, Wm. Brennan, of Local No. 55, James P. Holland, Local No. 56, N. A. James and John Hartley, Local No. 63, and the undersigned, waited on Hon. Franklin MacVeagh, Secretary of the Treasury in reference to firemen and others employed in Federal Buildings throughout the United States. Your representatives urged an increase in pay for the men of our craft in all Federal plants coming under the Treasury Department. The proposition was discussed for fully three quarters of an hour, Assistant Secretary Bailey, and Engineer Thompson of the department taking part in the discussion. Secretary MacVeagh, requested that we should give him the scale of wages of

our unions in the different cities where we are interested, and also the number of men in each instance receiving the union scale. He said that as soon as he got this information, that he would consider what could be done for the firemen. Being familiar with conditions in New York, I gave him the desired information there and then, and I am glad to say that he has taken action. I was in Washington last Saturday, and again called at the Treasury Department and was informed by Assistant Secretary Bailey, that the increase for New York had been taken up and would be announced in a few days. I also called on President Taft, and talked with him on the wage question and other matters pertaining to labor.

When we ask for the information requested by the Secretary of the Treasury, I would urge our Local Secretaries to be as prompt as possible in their replies.

TIMOTHY HEALY,
International President.

WOMEN'S EIGHT HOUR LAW VALID.

Seattle, Wash., April 20.—The state supreme court has rendered a decision that the eight-hour law for women, passed by the last session of the legislature, is constitutional. The test case was that of a fore-woman in a Seattle box factory who kept a girl at work nine hours a day. There is an exemption in this law which provides that fruit and vegetable canneries can operate during certain seasons of the year in excess of eight hours, but it is designed only to aid establishments handling perishable products. The decision of the court is eminently satisfactory to labor.

NON-UNIONISTS GO ON STRIKE.

Indianapolis, Ind., April 20.—In an endeavor to better the conditions that prevail at the iron works at Haughville, between 500 and 600 unorganized men have gone on strike. A system of dockage has been worked to the point where the men have finally rebelled. It is said that these men should receive at least \$15 a week for the work they perform, but under the system in vogue in the plant the average wage is about \$9.